REMARKS

The applicants have incorporated the features from page 7, lines 29-30 of the specification into claim 1. Claims 51-70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuse *et al.* U.S. Patent No. 5,453,348 ("Kuse") considered in view of Price U.S. Patent No. 6,013,422 ("Price") and known embodiments with respect to Craver *et al.* U.S. Patent No. 5,652,087 ("Craver") and Yamashita *et al.* U.S. Patent No. 5,635,341 ("Yamashita"). The applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 51 has the feature to perform the bleaching using a minor amount of a complex within a color reversal process having two development steps. Such a process includes a first development and after a reversal process a second (color) development (see claim 51). As each development step generates silver, there is much more silver to be bleached in a color reversal process as presently claimed than in a color negative process.

Although color reversal materials are disclosed in Kuse and Yamashita, none of the cited documents demonstrates the color reversal processing as presently claimed.

The disclosure of Kuse is clearly directed to a color negative process. This is evident *e.g.* from column 3, lines 8 - 15, teaching to color develop the exposed material and immediately thereafter bleaching it. This does not include the first development step necessary for reversal processing nor the conditioning step (see page 8, lines 10 - 11 and page 14 of the present application) commonly inserted between the second (color) development and the bleach bath of a color reversal process.

Kuse at col. 40, line 48 through col. 41, line 2 states,

[redacted]

"In the method of the invention, the **bleaching process is carried out immediately after the developing process without any treatment between these processes**.

Examples of preferred procedures of the processing method of the present invention are given below, but the invention is not limited thereby.

(1) Color developing →bleaching→fixing →washing

(2) Color developing→bleaching →fixing÷washing→stabilization

(3) Color developing →bleaching→fixing→stabilization

(4) Color developing →bleaching→fixing→1st stabilization→2nd stabilization

(5) Color developing→bleaching →bleach-fixing →washing

(6) Color developing →bleaching→bleach-fixing→washing→stailization

(7) Color developing→bleaching→bleach-fixing→.stabilization

(8) Color developing→bleaching →bleach-fixing →1st stabilization. →2nd stabilization, subsequent 3rd stabilization, if needed

Of these procedures, (3), (4), (7) and (8) are preferable; particularly, **(3) and (4) are more preferable**."

None of the procedures listed on column 40, lines 51 to 67, include a second development as is required by the applicants' claimed invention. Again, the bleaching is conducted after the first and only color developing step. After the first development step the applicants require a reversal step. The reversal step is carried out before the bleaching step. Whereas, Kuse stated that **bleaching process is carried out immediately after the developing process(first development step) without any treatment between these processes**. Therefore Kuse teaches away from the applicants' claimed invention.

[redacted]

In the background of the invention, Yamashita list the processing solutions of common color negative processes, but do not list the first (black and white) development. There is no teaching given with regard to the reversal processing and the examples are all run using a color negative process.

Therefore a person skilled in the art would have learned from Yamashita that the invention is only directed to a color negative process that might be applied to color photographic light-sensitive materials, color reversal films being included.

Again, knowing the principal difference between color negative and color reversal processing, the person of ordinary skill in the art would not have taken the teaching of Yamashita into regard when trying to improve color reversal processing.

As previously stated in the applicants' last response, even when looking at Yamashita (Examples. 1, 1-1 to 1-5) a person of ordinary skill in the art would have learned that negative processing of color paper (only 0.85 g Ag/m^2 given as $AgNO_3$) results in 0.38 g Ag/m^2 to 0.50 g Ag/m^2 of residual silver, what is not acceptable for a reversal processing. Therefore a person skilled in the art would have learned from Yamashita to use much higher amounts of the bleaching agent and would have been led away from the present invention.

Neither Price nor Craver teach or suggest the use of an iron complex of propylenediamine-tetraacetic acid as presently claimed, and a person skilled in the art would not combine them with Kuse and Yamashita, so that claim 51 as well as the dependent claims (claims 52-70) are allowable.

The bleaching time is not very critical for the present invention, but can be varied as known in the art and as disclosed in the references cited on page 7, lines 8-17. As demonstrated by the examples of the present invention, a longer bleaching time results in a better (lower)

[redacted]

residual silver, but no one would understand the lower limit of 6 minutes demonstrated in the examples as a singular point.

As the Examiner has stated, a teaching is not limited to an example, and therefore the applicants do not have to limit the bleaching time. No person skilled in the art would try a bleaching time of 0.0001 minutes, but would know which times are appropriate. Therefore, a limit of at least 6 minutes would unnecessarily reduce the scope of applicants' claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 07244-00111-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

Ashley I. Pezzner
Registration No.: 35,646
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1007 North Orange Street
P.O. Box 2207
Wilmington, Delaware 19899
(302) 888-6270
(302) 658-5614 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant